

Tom Horne
Superintendent

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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BETTER SCHOOLS, BETTER TEACHERS, BETTER CURRICULUM
HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL READING PROGRAM TO GO STATEWIDE
\$1 MILLION DOLLAR ARTS PROGRAM TO BE ANNOUNCED

(Phoenix) -- Arizona School's Chief Tom Horne will deliver his first annual State of Education Speech tomorrow at Madison Rose Lane Elementary School on the day of his first anniversary in office.

The theme of his address will be Promises Made, Promises Kept, highlighting eight promises, including English Immersion, enforcing AIMS, and reforming history standards.

He will also announce a roadmap to his three new initiatives for 2004: better schools, better teachers and better curriculum.

"I had eight promises laid out for the Department in 2003 and through hard work and perseverance, we at the Department have been able to deliver on all eight of them," said Superintendent Horne. "Now in 2004, I feel our initiatives are going to have a direct impact on each and every child in our schools."

The Department's 2004 initiatives will focus on: better schools, better teachers and better curriculum.

- (1) Better Schools: Horne summarized, "the first stage, an accurate measurement system, has been essentially completed. The focus now is on helping schools accurately identified as needing help. This year also prepares for the third stage: direct state intervention."

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- (2) Better Teachers: Horne summarized, “a highly successful program to train existing teachers to teach reading (Reading First) will be expanded from 63 schools to 1800 statewide, for those that want to participate. The Department will also focus on a number of programs to increase the quality of teachers and leadership.”
- (3) Better Curriculum: Horne summarized, “the Department will fight an unintended consequence of testing. No one intended the schools to narrow the curriculum to the tested subjects, reading, writing and math. Social studies, science and the arts will receive renewed emphasis. The Department is announcing a 3-year, \$1 million project, to promote the arts, in programs demonstrated to increase student’s academic performance as well.”

The text of Superintendent Tom Horne’s address is attached and can be found at www.ade.az.gov.

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